

REPRODUCTION IN *HYPSIGLENA*

Wilmer W. Tanner¹ and John R. Ottley²

ABSTRACT.— A clutch of 8 eggs was incubated. Three hatchlings emerged and were weighed, measured and color pattern indicated.

Although several reports have furnished information concerning the size, number, and weight of the eggs of the Night Snake, *Hypsiglena torquata* (Hibbard 1937, Tanner 1944-46, Wright and Wright 1957), there is little information on the time required for incubation and the size of new hatchlings.

A large specimen (568 mm) taken in the vicinity of Ortiz, Sonora, Mexico, by the junior author on 12 August 1979 laid eight eggs 28 August. A ninth egg was layed approximately one week later, but was eaten by a male *H. torquata* sharing the same cage. Although we have collectively examined or collected hundreds of individuals of this genus, this is our first opportunity to examine fresh eggs in the laboratory and to have a successful incubation. The eggs averaged approximately 26.5 mm long and weighed an average of about 1.77 grams. They varied in size, with one being only about half the size of the largest. Unfortunately, only the average size and weight was recorded.

Eggs were placed in a gallon jar on moist newspaper 28 August; two hatched 25 October and one 27 October. Incubation time was

59 days at room temperature, 68 to 75 F. Several eggs developed to near hatching and may have been unable to tolerate the low temperature of 68 degrees Fahrenheit. Data on the three hatchlings are presented in Table 1.

The scale patterns were within the ranges previously indicated for our series from Sonora (Tanner 1981). The nape pattern was typical for specimens seen from central Sonora, there being no indication of the light band. Two hatchlings had three nape spots with the median narrow and not extending completely between the large lateral spots. In the third, the spots were connected to form an irregular, incised band.

LITERATURE CITED

- HIBBARD, C. W. 1937. *Hypsiglena ochrorhynchus* in Kansas and additional notes on *Leptotyphlops dulcis*. Copeia 1937(1):74.
TANNER, W. W. 1944(46). A taxonomic study of the genus *Hypsiglena*. Great Basin Nat. 5:25-92.
———. 1981. A new *Hypsiglena* from Tiburon Island, Sonora, Mexico. Great Basin Nat. 41(1):000.
WRIGHT, A. H., AND A. WRIGHT. 1957. Handbook of snakes. Comstock Publ. Assoc.

TABLE 1. Basic data on the three eggs that hatched and size and pattern of the hatchlings.

BYU No.	Sex	Egg Length	Date Hatched	Length		Wt-gr	Dorsal spots
				S-V	Tail		
34772	♀	28.5 mm	25 Oct.	145	31	2.1	53
34773	♂	24.0 mm	25 Oct.	141	31	1.2	60
34774	♀	27.0 mm	27 Oct.	159	30	2.0	63

¹Life Science Museum, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602.

²Department of Zoology, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602.